

## Martin and Marie Dicke—Missionaries Serving the Lord in Papua New Guinea

### Reconnecting...

By Martin Dicke

One of the great joys of returning to serve as a missionary in the land where my family spent so many years is reconnecting with people who either knew, worked with, or were deeply affected by my parents who served here for 20 years, and my uncle and aunt, the Rev. Dr. Willard and Elinor Burce, who served here for 40. In this newsletter are pictures of a only few of the people with whom we have reconnected in the past year and a little of their stories.

1) Marie having a language lesson with Yako Kosa. Yako worked with my father for many years in the New Guinea Lutheran Mission (NGLM) Supply House at Kumbasakama. We discovered that when I was a little boy we would ride the truck together to meet the DC3 that flew in every Wednesday with supplies.

2) Yakom worked with my mother when we lived at Mukaramanda. At that time her name was Jenny. Since then she was married, but her husband abandoned her for another woman. She returned to Yaibos where she was born and now works at Highland Lutheran International School at Amapyaka where we live.

3) Marty with Sir Peter Ipatas,



Governor of the Enga Province at his father's funeral in April 2017. Sir Peter's father, Ipatas, worked with both my Uncle Bill and my father. Ipatas was the first person in the Enga Province to learn how to drive. He was taught by my Uncle Bill on the first mission vehicle that was purchased with funds raised by my grandmother, Edith Dicke, who at the time was President of the Minnesota District of the LWML. Sir Peter learned how to ride the bicycle on our bike. Several years ago he was knighted by the Queen of England.

4) Kevin was a little boy when we lived at Mukaramanda. My father used to give him a ride every morning to the gardens where he worked. Now he services cell phone towers for Digicel. Here he is servicing the cell phone tower at Highland Lutheran International School at Amapyaka which sits on the basketball court we played on as kids.

5) Kiwa worked with my father for many years. He now is a faithful member of Wabag Lutheran Church.



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1) Marie showing Tipingi and her family my father's funeral folder and pictures of our family. Tipingi worked with my mother for many years when we lived at Mukaramanda. 2) Kibunki's last surviving wife. Kibunki was a leader at Kumbasakama and worked closely with my father. When our family left PNG in 1974, Kibunki went into mourning covering himself in mud when he came to say goodbye knowing he would not see my father again. 3) Kubunki's wife and Pea Tipitap (center) holding my father's funeral folder with new friends at Kumbasakama. 4) The first translator to work with Rev. Bill Wagner when mission work began in the Tsak Raigam area in the 1960s. He worked tirelessly as an Evangelist in many other areas as well. 5) Joy Kibunki, youngest daughter of Kibunki.



## Devotional Thought: "Fellow Citizens"

Here is a recent LWML devotion that spoke to us.

### In the Word

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

*Ephesians 2:19-20*

I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;

Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.

Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;

Heav'n is my fatherland,  
Heav'n is my home.

This hymn of hope and comfort is often sung at funerals or on days of remembrance of the saints in heaven. Our earthly life is a pilgrimage, one that will end in the glories of heaven for all who believe and are forgiven through the saving work of Jesus.

The conviction of the phrase, "Heav'n is my home," adds to the beauty of the hymn. It confidently states "heaven is my home" not "heaven will be my home" or "heaven might be my home."

"And I shall surely stand  
There at my Lord's right hand;  
Heav'n is my fatherland,  
Heav'n is my home."

### Walking with My Lord

Eternal God, thank You for preparing my heavenly home. Grant me that upward view through each step I take on the earth. In Jesus' heaven-opening name I pray. Amen.

*Mustard Seed: Joyful, Joyful.* Rev. Larry and Shari Miller, authors. 24/31. Hymn Text: LSB 748. ©2011 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 3558 S Jefferson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63118. [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

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